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Cosmetic Agents Containing Skin Moisturizers

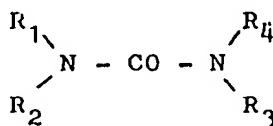
The present invention pertains to cosmetic agents, especially skin care, skin protective and skin-cleansing agents containing hydroxyalkyl-substituted ureas as the skin moisturizer.

It has been generally known that the protective measures for a healthy skin include a certain hygroscopicity besides other factors. If the substances on which this hygroscopicity as well as its constant restoration is based are removed from the skin due to environmental effects and extracting substances, the effects of chemicals and intense weathering effects, changes will occur in the stratum corneum, by which the protective action of the skin against damaging environmental effects may be greatly reduced.

The object was therefore to develop cosmetic agents, especially skin care, skin protective and skin-cleansing agents, by which the ability of the skin to function is preserved fully or to an increased extent despite damaging environmental effects and the restoration of the stratum corneum is effectively supported in case of damage that has actually occurred.

The products used hitherto as skin moisturizers were consistently ionic compounds such as acids and primarily salts, which considerably reduce the stability of especially low-viscosity O/W emulsions, even though they led to usable results as skin moisture regulators in some cases. In many cases, only completely insufficient amounts of skin moisture regulators were often able to be used in such cases. Besides the general object of developing good skin moisturizers, there was a special interest in products that do not cause any stability problems after their incorporation in O/W emulsions as well.

This object was accomplished by using cosmetic agents, especially skin care, skin protective and skin-cleansing agents based on usual components such as surfactants, emulsifying agents, fat substances, plant extracts, solvents, perfumes, thickeners and preservatives which contain hydroxyalkyl-substituted ureas according to the general formula



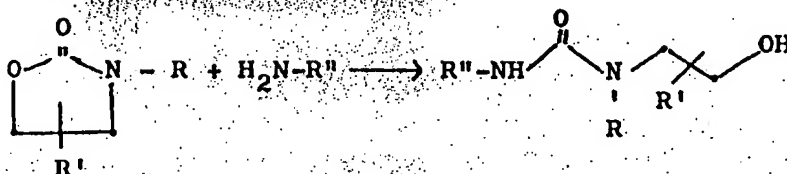
in which R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 denote, independently from one another, a hydrogen atom, a lower (C_1 - C_4) alkyl or a lower (C_2 - C_6) hydroxyalkyl group, which may contain 1-5 hydroxyl or hydroxyalkyl groups, providing that at least one of the radicals R_1 - R_4 is a hydroxyalkyl or

oligohydroxyalkyl group, in an amount of 1 wt. % to 20 wt. % and preferably 3 wt. % to 10 wt. % relative to the total agent.

These products, to be used according to the present invention, are especially suitable for maintaining or restoring the water retention of the skin and for keeping the skin soft and flexible and fully able to function as a result.

The compounds to be used as skin moisturizers according to the present invention can be prepared according to generally known methods. For example, they can be obtained by reacting substituted primary or secondary amines with urea at elevated temperatures of about 80°C to 200°C or by reacting the substituted amine hydrochlorides with alkali cyanates in an aqueous medium. Reactions of carbamic acid, which may be substituted at the nitrogen atom, with optionally substituted primary or secondary amines also yield the corresponding hydroxyalkyl-substituted ureas. The hydroxyalkyl-substituted ureas to be used according to the present invention may also be prepared by a reaction with isocyanates, carbamoyl chlorides or phosgene from correspondingly substituted amines.

It was furthermore found that *N*-(2-hydroxyalkyl) ureas can be prepared in a simple manner by allowing optionally substituted 2-oxazolidones to react with primary or secondary, especially primary amines at elevated temperature between preferably 100°C and 200°C. The reaction takes place according to the following scheme:



Hydroxyalkyl-substituted ureas to be used according to the present invention are, e.g., *N*-(2-hydroxyethyl), *N*-(2-hydroxypropyl), *N*-(3-hydroxypropyl), *N*-(2,3-dihydroxypropyl), *N*-(2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl), *N*-methyl-*N*-(1,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxy-2-hexyl), *N*-methyl-*N'*-(1-hydroxy-2-methyl-2-propyl), *N*-(1-hydroxy-2-methyl-2-propyl), *N*-(1,3-dihydroxy-2-propyl), *N*-(tris-hydroxymethyl-methyl), *N*-ethyl-*N'*-(2-hydroxyethyl), *N,N*-bis-(2-hydroxyethyl), *N,N'*-bis-(2-hydroxyethyl), *N,N*-bis-(2-hydroxypropyl), *N,N'*-bis-(2-hydroxypropyl), *N,N*-bis-(2-hydroxyethyl)-*N'*-propyl, *N,N*-bis-(2-hydroxypropyl)-*N'*-(2-hydroxyethyl), *N-tert.*-butyl-*N'*-(2-hydroxyethyl)-*N'*-(2-hydroxypropyl), *N*-(1,3-dihydroxy-2-propyl)-*N'*-(2-hydroxyethyl), *N,N*-bis-(2-hydroxyethyl)-*N'*,*N'*-dimethyl, *N,N,N',N'*-tetrakis-(2-hydroxyethyl)-*N'*,*N'*-dimethyl, *N,N,N',N'*-tetrakis-(2-hydroxyethyl), and *N,N*-bis-(2-hydroxyethyl)-*N'*,*N'*-bis-(2-hydroxypropyl) ureas.

The hydroxyalkyl-substituted ureas to be used according to the present invention are colorless, crystalline or viscous, fully stable products, which have very good physiological tolerance and are characterized as neutral, nonionic compounds by an especially good ability to be incorporated in cosmetic emulsion bases. Mixtures of various hydroxyalkyl-substituted ureas as well as mixtures with unsubstituted ureas may also be used for the incorporation in cosmetic products. Furthermore, it is not absolutely necessary to prepare the pure compounds, but the crude products of the reaction may also be used if they are adjusted to a neutral pH value by treatment with an acid cation exchanger.

Day creams, baby creams, night creams and nutrient creams, cleansing creams, skin protective creams, glycerol creams, creams with special additives of animal and vegetable origin, sunscreen creams and sunscreen emulsions, soaps, bath oils, foam baths, shower baths, face lotions, and aftershaves may be mentioned as skin care, skin protective and skin-cleansing agents to which special skin care properties are imparted due to the addition of the *N*-hydroxyalkyl alkanolic acid amides to be used according to the present invention. The incorporation in the skin care, skin protective and skin-cleansing agents may be carried out in the known manner by simple stirring in or dissolution. Besides the hydroxyalkyl-substituted ureas to be used according to the present invention, the cosmetic preparations may contain the components usually present in such preparations, e.g., emulsifying agents, fat substances, plant extracts, preservatives, perfumes, and solvents in the usual quantities. The pH value of the skin care and skin protective agents may be in the acid to neutral range and is advantageously adjusted to weakly acid values around pH 6. The weakest possible alkaline pH is desirable in the case of soap-based skin-cleansing agents.

The subject of the present invention will be explained in greater detail by the following examples, but the subject of the present invention is not limited to these examples.

Examples

The compounds listed below were subjected to corresponding tests among the hydroxyalkyl-substituted ureas to be used according to the present invention as skin moisturizers, and they were used in formulations. The preparation of the products will be described first.

A) *N*-(2-Hydroxyethyl) Urea

A mixture of 61 g (1 mole) of ethanolamine and 60 g (1 mole) of urea were heated for 8 hours at 100°C. The mixture crystallized after cooling, and *N*-(2-hydroxyethyl) urea with a melting point of 89-91°C was obtained at a nearly quantitative yield. It was possible to raise the melting point to 90-92°C by recrystallization from ethanol/ether.

However, purification by recrystallization is not necessary for use in the production of cosmetic products. The aqueous solution of the crude product is mixed for this purpose with the H form of a cation exchange resin, e.g., Levatit S 100®, while stirring, until a pH value of 6 becomes established, and subsequently filtered off. The aqueous solution of the *N*-(2-hydroxyethyl) urea thus obtained can be used for cosmetic purposes without any further treatment.

The following compounds were prepared in a corresponding manner:

B) *N*-(2-Hydroxypropyl) Urea

Melting point 118°C after recrystallization from dioxane.

C) *N,N*-Bis-(2-Hydroxyethyl) Urea

Melting point 75-76°C after recrystallization from chloroform/ethanol.

D) *N*-(2-Hydroxyethyl-2-methyl-2-propyl) Urea

A solution of 81 g (1 mole) of 2-amino-2-methyl propanol in 100 mL of water was neutralized with 100 g of 36% hydrochloric acid (1 mole) and subsequently mixed with a suspension of 65 g (1 mole) of sodium cyanate in 300 mL of water, which was added in portions, while stirring at room temperature. After stirring for 16 hours at room temperature, the solution was concentrated by evaporation under reduced pressure, and the solid residue was extracted with boiling ethanol. After the ethanol had been distilled off, the residue was recrystallized from ethanol. Thirty-six g of pure *N*-(2-hydroxy-2-methyl-2-propyl) urea with a melting point of 104°C, corresponding to 27% of the theoretical value, were obtained.

The following compounds were prepared in a corresponding manner:

E) *N*-(1,3-Dihydroxy-2-methyl-2-propyl) Urea

Colorless resin with a refractive index n^{20} of 1.5030.

F) *N*-(1,3-Dihydroxy-2-hydroxymethyl-2-propyl) Urea

Melting point 138°C after recrystallization from ethanol.

G) *N,N'*-Bis-(2-hydroxyethyl) Urea

A mixture of 43.5 g (0.5 moles) of 2-oxazolidone and 30.6 g (0.5 moles) of ethanolamine were heated at 145°C for 2 hours. After cooling with ice/water, the crude *N,N'*-bis-(2-hydroxyethyl) urea solidified into a wax-like mass. After recrystallization from ethanol/chloroform, the pure compound had a melting point of 54-55°C.

The products C, D, E, and F are novel compounds not hitherto described as such.

The favorable behavior of the compounds to be used according to the present invention in terms of water absorption capacity and water retention capacity was determined by means of the testing methods described in detail below. This is a method for determining the equilibrium moisture content, which is an indicator of the water retention capacity, and the determination of the water retention, rehydration and elasticity of impregnated porcine epidermis.

1. Determination of the Equilibrium Moisture Content

The substances to be tested (approx. 300-500 mg) were moistened with a defined quantity of water and exposed to different relative humidity levels (1%, 30%, 47%, 65%, 89% and 100% of relative humidity) at 23°C for 24 hours in a closed space. The amount of water taken up or removed was determined gravimetrically and plotted graphically. The relative humidity at which neither the release of water nor water uptake takes place was determined from the resulting curves. This value, which is called the equilibrium moisture content, is an indicator of the water retention capacity of a substance. The lower the value, the more favorably can the substance be rated. Furthermore, the water uptake capacity (hygroscopicity) of the substance can be read from the slope of the curve.

2. Measurements on Porcine Epidermis

a) Obtaining of the Porcine Epidermis

Immediately after the pigs were sacrificed, the bristles of the skin were cut off by means of a hair-clipping machine (clipping head 0.1 mm). The pigs were blanched in water with a temperature of 60°C for about 3-5 minutes, the epidermis was subsequently peeled off and stored at -20°C until use.

b) Determination of the Water Retention and the Rehydration of Impregnated Porcine Epidermis

Punched-out pieces of epidermis (1 x 2 cm) were soaked in a 10% solution of the substance to be tested for 2 hours, dabbed off under standardized conditions by means of a small press and dried for 24 hours, hanging freely between two clamps in a 100-mL Erlenmeyer flask at 23°C and a relative humidity of 30% as well as at 50% relative humidity (set by means of sulfuric acid-water mixtures). The drying of the impregnated sample to X % of the initial weight was compared with the corresponding value of the epidermis that was soaked in water only (blank value). The improvements in the water retention as well as in the rehydration compared with the blank value in Δ % H₂O are shown in the table. The deviations were at most ± 2 absolute units in the double tests. The test was repeated in the case of greater deviations. The rehydration was determined analogously by 24-hour drying of the impregnated and dabbed-off porcine epidermis at

30% relative humidity and subsequent incubation for 24 hours at
90% relative humidity.

c) Elasticity Measurements on Impregnated Porcine Epidermis

Punched-out pieces of epidermis (1 x 6 cm) were soaked in a 10% aqueous solution of the substance to be tested for 2 hours and dabbed off under standardized conditions. The samples were incubated hanging freely between two clamps at a relative humidity of 70% and at a relative humidity of 90% for 24 hours and stretched in a Zwick tensile testing machine (model 1402) under a load of 0-50 p. The stretching in mm, which was measured in the Hookean range at a load between 5 and 30 p, was stated as the indicator of the elasticity.

The measured values obtained in the above-described tests are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Product	Equilibrium moisture content (% rel. hum.)	Measurements on the porcine epidermis				
		Water retention, % H ₂ O after drying at		Rehydration, % of water uptake at 90% rel. hum.	Stretching in mm after loading between 5 and 30 g	
		30% rel. hum.	50% rel. hum.		90% rel. hum.	75% rel. hum.
Blank value	-	0	0	0	0.3-0.5	0
A	70	15	18	21	6.2	0.8
C	62	10	10	11	5.1	1.5
G	58	11	11	15	4.7	0.8

The table above also shows the considerable water retention capacity of the compounds to be used according to the present invention and consequently their good suitability for use as skin moisturizers in skin care, skin protective and skin-cleansing agents, besides the high water uptake capacity.

Some examples of cosmetic preparations that contain the substances to be used according to the present invention as skin moisturizers will be described below.

Day Cream, Slightly Greasy

Fatty acid partial glyceride Cutina MD®

Dehydag

6.0 parts by weight

Stearic acid

8.0 parts by weight

Mixture of nonionogenic emulsifying agents

Eumulgin C 700® Dehydag

3.0 parts by weight

2-Octyl dodecanol

4.0 parts by weight

Vegetable oil

3.0 parts by weight

Paraffin oil

5.0 parts by weight

Triethanolamine

0.4 parts by weight

1,2-Propylene glycol

3.0 parts by weight

Product A

6.0 parts by weight

Nipagin M

0.2 parts by weight

Perfume oil

1.0 part by weight

Water

60.4 parts by weight

Baby Cream

Mixture of higher-boiling esters, predominantly mixed esters of pentaerythritol fatty acid esters and citric acid fatty alcohol esters, Dehymuls E® Dehydag

Oleic acid decyl ester

Vaseline

Wool grease

Boric acid

Talc

Zinc oxide

Nipagin M

Product G

Water

7.0 parts by weight
10.0 parts by weight
10.0 parts by weight
5.0 parts by weight
0.2 parts by weight
12.0 parts by weight
8.0 parts by weight
0.2 parts by weight
8.0 parts by weight
39.6 parts by weight

Night Cream

Colloid-disperse mixture of 90 parts of cetyl stearyl alcohol and 10 parts of sodium lauryl sulfate

2-Octyl dodecanol

Vegetable oil

Wool grease

Glycerol —

Product C

Nipagin M

Perfume oil

Water

10.0 parts by weight
12.0 parts by weight
7.0 parts by weight
2.0 parts by weight
1.0 parts by weight
10.0 parts by weight
0.2 parts by weight
1.0 parts by weight
56.8 parts by weight

Boron-Glycerol Cream

Colloid-disperse mixture of 90 parts of cetyl stearyl alcohol and 10 parts of sodium lauryl sulfate

2-Octyl dodecanol

Vegetable oil

Boric acid

Glycerol

Nipagin M

Product B

Water

12.0 parts by weight
8.0 parts by weight
5.0 parts by weight
2.0 parts by weight
28.0 parts by weight
0.2 parts by weight
6.0 parts by weight
38.8 parts by weight

Moisturizing Cream

Mixture of mono- and diglycerides of palmitic and stearic acids, Eumulsan MD® Dehydag

Fatty alcohol polyglycol ether,

Eumulgin B 3® Dehydag

Oleic acid decyl ester

Vegetable oil

Paraffin oil

Product A

1,2-Propylene glycol

p-Hydroxybenzoic acid methyl ester

Water

16.0 parts by weight
4.0 parts by weight
5.0 parts by weight
5.0 parts by weight
2.0 parts by weight
5.0 parts by weight
5.0 parts by weight
0.2 parts by weight
57.8 parts by weight

Moisturizing Cream

Self-emulsifying mixture of mono- and diglycerides of higher saturated fatty acids, Eumulsan KD® Dehydag

16.0 parts by weight

Fatty alcohol polyglycol ether

1.0 parts by weight

Eumulgin B 3® Dehydag

12.0 parts by weight

2-Octyl dodecanol

8.0 parts by weight

Isopropyl myristate

4.0 parts by weight

Paraffin oil

5.0 parts by weight

Product G

8.0 parts by weight

Sorbitol solution Karion®, liquid

0.2 parts by weight

p-Hydroxybenzoic acid methyl ester

55.8 parts by weight

Water

Moisturizing Emulsion

Mixture of mono- and diglycerides of palmitic and stearic acids, Eumulsan MD® Dehydag

6.0 parts by weight

Fatty alcohol polyglycol ether, Eumulgin B 3® Dehydag

4.0 parts by weight

2-Octyl dodecanol

10.0 parts by weight

Vegetable oil

4.0 parts by weight

Paraffin oil

4.0 parts by weight

Product B

5.0 parts by weight

1,2-Propylene glycol

7.0 parts by weight

p-Hydroxybenzoic acid methyl ester

0.2 parts by weight

Water

59.8 parts by weight

Sunscreen Cream

Mixture of higher-molecular-weight esters with fat substances,

30.0 parts by weight

Dehymuls K® Dehydag

15.0 parts by weight

Oleic acid decyl ester

5.0 parts by weight

Sunscreen

0.2 parts by weight

Nipagin M

8.0 parts by weight

Product D

41.8 parts by weight

Water

Face-pack

Mixture of fatty acid partial glyceride with emulsifying agents, Cutina LE® Dehydag

12.0 parts by weight

Oleic acid decyl ester

4.0 parts by weight

Vitamin oil

5.0 parts by weight

Kaolin

2.0 parts by weight

Rice starch

3.0 parts by weight

Nipagin M

0.2 parts by weight

Product F

10.0 parts by weight

Water

63.8 parts by weight

Aftershave

Oleyl cetyl alcohol	1.0 parts by weight
Ethanol, 96%	67.5 parts by weight
Methanol	0.2 parts by weight
Camphor	0.2 parts by weight
Peru balsam	0.1 parts by weight
Perfume	0.5 parts by weight
Hamamelis extract	10.0 parts by weight
Boric acid	0.5 parts by weight
Product A	5.0 parts by weight
Product E	5.0 parts by weight
Water	10.0 parts by weight

Face Lotion

Cucumber juice	15.0 parts by weight
Citric acid	0.2 parts by weight
Ethanol, 96%	15.0 parts by weight
Product C	5.0 parts by weight
Product B	5.0 parts by weight
Aromatic substance	1.0 parts by weight
Water	58.8 parts by weight

Foam Bath

Monoethanolamine lauryl sulfate, approx. 33% detergent-active substance	66.0 parts by weight
Cocofatty acid diethanolamide	3.0 parts by weight
Product G	10.0 parts by weight
Perfume oil	3.0 parts by weight
Water	18.0 parts by weight

Cream Foam Bath

Sodium lauryl ether sulfate, approx. 30% detergent-active substance	78.0 parts by weight
Oleic acid diethanolamide	4.0 parts by weight
Lauric acid hexyl ester	8.0 parts by weight
Product A	5.0 parts by weight
1,2-Propylene glycol	2.0 parts by weight
Perfume oil	3.0 parts by weight

Soap Containing Skin Moisturizers

A mixture consisting of 80% of sodium tallow soap and 20% of sodium coconut oil soap was used. The soap in the form of flakes with a water content of 20% was mixed with

0.2 parts by weight of	1-hydroxyethane 1,1-diphosphonic acid,
10.0 parts by weight of	product A and
3.0 parts by weight of	perfume oil

relative to 100 parts by weight, molded in an extruder and pressed into bars.

Syndet Soap Bar Containing Skin Moisturizer

The example is based on a syndet bar based on a mixture of olefin sulfonate and sulfosuccinic acid ester salt.

The disodium salt of a sulfosuccinic acid monofatty alcohol ester, which had been prepared from the C₁₂-C₁₈ fraction of a cocofatty alcohol, was used to prepare the mixture. The olefin sulfonate originated from a mixture of straight-chain α -olefins containing 15-18 carbon atoms. This olefin mixture was prepared by sulfonating 1 mole of olefin with approx. 1.2 moles of gaseous, inert gas-diluted sulfur trioxide, hydrolyzing the crude sulfonation product with the calculated amount of sodium hydroxide at temperatures of about 100°C and bleaching the sulfonate with hypochlorite. The mixture of the two sulfonates contained about 5 wt. % of neutral salt (sodium sulfate and sodium chloride) relative to anhydrous sulfonate. The composition of the syndet mass was as follows:

- 70 parts by weight of surfactant mixture, consisting of
 - 60 wt. % of olefin sulfonate
 - 40 wt. % of the disodium salt of the sulfosuccinic acid ester
- 15 parts by weight of tallow fatty acid (iodine number 2)
- 2 parts by weight of lanolin
- 5 parts by weight of water
- 8 parts by weight of product G
- 2 parts by weight of perfume oil.

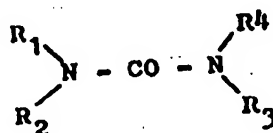
The mass was molded in an extruder and pressed into bars.

Other products that can be used according to the present invention may also be used instead of the compounds to be used according to the present invention that are mentioned in the above formulations.

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Patent Claims

1. Cosmetic agents, especially skin care, skin protective and skin-cleaning agents based on usual components, such as emulsifying agents, fat substances, plant extracts, solvents, perfumes, thickeners, preservatives, and surfactants, characterized in that they contain hydroxyalkyl-substituted ureas according to the general formula



- in which R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 denote, independently from one another, a hydrogen atom, a lower (C_1 - C_4 alkyl or a lower (C_2 - C_6) hydroxyalkyl group, which may contain 1-5 hydroxyl or hydroxyalkyl groups, providing that at least one of the radicals R_1 - R_4 denotes a hydroxyalkyl or oligohydroxyalkyl group, in an amount of 1 wt. % to 20 wt. % and preferably 3 wt. % to 10 wt. % relative to the total agent.
2. Cosmetic agents in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the hydroxyalkyl-substituted ureas are used in the form of the crude products as obtained in the preparation reaction after treatment with an acid cation exchanger to set a neutral pH value.
 3. Cosmetic agents in accordance with claims 1 and 2, characterized in that besides the hydroxyalkyl-substituted ureas acting as moisturizers for the skin, they contain the usual components, such as emulsifying agents, fat substances, plant extracts, preservatives, perfumes, thickeners, solvents, and surfactants in the conventional amounts.
 8. Process for preparing *N*-(2-hydroxyalkyl)-ureas by reacting optionally substituted 2-oxazolidones at elevated temperature between preferably 100°C and 200°C with primary or secondary and especially primary amines.